

What is claimed is:

1. A method of manufacturing a component of a door trim panel assembly for the interior of a vehicle, said method comprising the steps of:

actuating a core within a mold cavity so as to partition at least one area of said mold cavity to prevent a first molten thermoplastic material from completely filling said mold cavity;

injecting the first molten thermoplastic material having a predetermined density into a mold cavity so as to fill said mold cavity thereby forming a structural element;

retracting the core within the mold cavity to provide at least one secondary void within said mold cavity; and

injecting a second molten thermoplastic material having a density less than the predetermined density of said first molten thermoplastic material into said secondary void of said mold cavity to form at least one soft-touch area bonded to and adjacent at least a portion of said structural element.

2. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of retracting the core within the mold cavity further includes the step of permitting a predetermined lapse of time prior to permit said structural element to partially cure prior to retracting said retractable core.

3. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of injecting a first thermoplastic material further includes the step of defining a substrate having a plurality of sidewalls that serve as the structural element for an armrest, said second thermoplastic material bonded to and adjacent at least a portion of at least one of said sidewalls to define a soft-touch area on said armrest.

4. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of injecting a first thermoplastic material further includes the step of defining a substrate that serves as the structural element for a bolster area, said second thermoplastic material bonded to and adjacent at least a portion of said bolster area to define a soft-touch area on said substrate.

5. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of injecting a second molten thermoplastic material further includes injecting a thermoplastic material having different color than the color of said first molten thermoplastic material.

6. A method of manufacturing a component of a door trim panel assembly for the interior of a vehicle, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a mold having first and second die halves and a core moveably supported relative to said die halves and disposed therebetween to define a first and second mold cavity between said moveable core and said first and second die halves;

injecting said first molten thermoplastic material having a predetermined density into said first mold cavity so as to fill said first mold cavity thereby forming a structural element;

moving a core relative to said first and second die halves to define said second mold cavity; and

injecting a second molten thermoplastic material having a density less than the predetermined density of said first molten thermoplastic material into said second mold cavity thereby forming at least one soft-touch area bonded to and adjacent at least a portion of said structural element of said component.

7. The method as set forth in claim 6 wherein the step of moving said core to define said second mold cavity further includes the step of permitting a predetermined lapse of time prior injecting a second molten thermoplastic material to permit said structural element to partially cure.

8. The method as set forth in claim 6 wherein said step of injecting a first thermoplastic material further includes the step of defining a substrate having a plurality of sidewalls that serve as the structural element for an armrest, said second thermoplastic material bonded to and adjacent at least a portion of at least one of said sidewalls to define a soft-touch area on said armrest.

9. The method as set forth in claim 6 wherein said step of injecting a first thermoplastic material further includes the step of defining a substrate that serves as the structural element for a bolster area, said second thermoplastic material bonded to and adjacent at least a portion of said bolster area to define a soft-touch area on said substrate.

10. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of injecting a second molten thermoplastic material further includes injecting a thermoplastic material having different color than the color of said first molten thermoplastic material.

11. A component of a door trim panel assembly for the interior of a vehicle, said component comprising:

a structural element formed from the injection of a first molten thermoplastic material having a predetermined density into a mold cavity; and

a soft touch area bonded to and adjacent at least a portion of said structural element, said soft-touch area formed from the injecting a second molten thermoplastic material having a density less than the predetermined density of the first molten thermoplastic material into a secondary void of the mold cavity.

12. The component of a door trim panel assembly as set forth in claim 11 wherein said structural element defines a substrate having a plurality of sidewalls that defines an armrest of said door trim panel assembly.

13. The component of a door trim panel assembly as set forth in claim 12 wherein said soft-touch area is bonded to and formed adjacent at least a portion of at least one of said sidewalls to define a soft-touch area on said armrest.

14. The component of a door trim panel assembly as set forth in claim 11 wherein said structural element defines a substrate having a bolster area.

15. The component of a door trim panel assembly as set forth in claim 14 wherein said soft-touch area is bonded to and formed adjacent at least a portion of said bolster area that is visible from the interior of a vehicle.

16. The component of a door trim panel assembly as set forth in claim 11 wherein said soft-touch area includes a different color than said structural element.